Claims:

1   1.   A mobile switching center (MSC), comprising:

2   a processor;

3   an internal bus coupled to the processor; and

4   a   memory   for   storing   computer   instructions,   which

5   computer instructions define operational logic of the MSC and

6   more particularly, logic for receiving and responding to a

7   request by a called party user of a mobile station for a

8   message to be played to a calling party to advise the calling

9   party that the called party will be taking the call shortly.

1   2.   The   MSC   of   claim   1   wherein   the   computer

2   instructions further define logic to prompt the MSC to prompt

3   an IVR to play a specified message to the calling party.

1   3.   The   MSC   of   claim   2   wherein   the   computer

2   instructions further define logic to prompt the MSC to place

3   the calling party on hold.

1   4.   The   MSC   of   claim   2   wherein   the   computer

2   instructions further define logic to prompt the MSC place the

3   calling   party   on   hold   until   the   MSC   receives   a   ready

4   indication from the called party.

1   5.   The   MSC   of   claim   2   wherein   the   computer

2   instructions further define logic to prompt the MSC place the

3   calling party on hold until a specified amount of time has

4   elapsed.

1   6.   The MSC of claim 5 wherein the specified amount of

2   time is less,than one minute.

1   7.   The MSC of claim 5 wherein the specified amount of

2   time is approximately equal to twenty seconds.

1   8.   The   MSC   of   claim   2   wherein   the   computer

2   instructions define logic to complete the call setup and, as

3   soon as the call is setup, prompting the IVR to play the

4   specified message.

1   9.   A system for connecting a calling party to a called

2 party, comprising:

3   circuitry including logic for receiving and interpreting

4 a call request from a calling party;

5   circuitry including logic for determining the identity

6 of a communications node to which a call set up signal is to

7 be routed as a part of establishing a call between the called

8 and the calling parties; and

9   circuitry including logic for responding to a select

10 indication made upon a called party phone, which select

11 indication is a request for a specified message to be played

12 to the calling party to advise the calling party that the

13 called party will be taking the call shortly.

1   10. The system of claim 9 wherein the circuitry

2 including logic for responding further includes logic for

3 responding to a select indication that the called party is

4 ready to take the call.

1   11. The system of claim 10 wherein the circuitry

2 responds by connecting the call upon received the select

3 indication that the called party is ready to take the call.

1   12.   The system of claim 9 wherein the select indication

2   for a specified message to be played is received in the form

3   of DTMF tones.

1   13.   The system of claim 9 wherein the select indication

2   for a specified message to be played is received in the form

3   of a select DTMF tone, which select DTMF tone must be

4   received within a specified time frame triggered by on of

5   receiving an "off hook" indication or, in the case of a

6   wireless network, a call acceptance indication.

1   14.   The system of claim 9 wherein the select indication

2   for a specified message to be played is received in the form

3   of a defined signal within a defined response signal.

1   15.   The system of claim 9 wherein the circuitry further

2   includes logic to cause the call to be connected immediately

3   after receiving the select indication that is a request for a

4   specified message to be played to the calling party.

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1   16. A method for connecting a call placed by a calling

2 party to a called party, comprising:

3   receiving an indication that a call is to be setup with

4 the called party;

5   receiving an indication of the called party number;

6   determining a serving node for the called party;

7   transmitting call set up signals to the serving node;

8   responding to a called party response by triggering an

9 IVR to play a select message to the calling party to advise

10 the calling party that the called party will be taking the

11 call shortly.

1   17. The method of claim 16 further including the step

2 of connecting the call without waiting for a ready indication

3 to connect the call.

1   18. The method of claim 16 further including the step

2 of waiting for a ready indication transmitted by the called

3 party phone prior to connecting the call.

1   19. The method of claim 16 wherein the call is

2 connected after a specified period of time has elapsed since

3 the called party response including a request was received.

1   20. The method of claim 16 wherein the called party

2   response including a request is received in the form of a

3   select DTMF tone within a specified period of time since the

4   transmission of a call setup signal to the called party

5   phone.

1   21. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step

2   of advising the calling party of a sequence of steps that the

3   calling party may take to leave a message.

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1   22. The method of claim 16 further including the step

2   of re-entering into an alert mode of operation.

1   23. The method of claim 22 wherein the step of re-

2   entering into an alert mode of operation occurs only upon

3   activation by the calling party.

1   24. The method of claim 22 wherein the step of re-

2   entering into an alert mode of operation occurs automatically

3   after the expiration of a specified amount of time.